A PHONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF FLIGHT ANNOUNCERS' PRONUNCIATION PATTERN AT THE MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT, LAGOS

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Abstract

Hearing an announcement made over the loud speaker in any Nigerian airport leaves most hearers with the impression that the announcer has an excellent command of English. There are however some listeners, mostly travellers that claim that they barely hear or understand what is being announced. This is a serious challenge since air travel is a global phenomenon that requires the highest level of intelligibility. This study thus aims to investigate the pronunciation pattern in the language of flight announcers at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos, in line with the Labov's theory of Linguistic Variation. Data was elicited from ten flight announcers, through purposive sampling; using a questionnaire and reading test. Output of the reading test was recorded, phonetically transcribed and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The result showed that exposure to native speakers, age of respondents and years of working experience, affects correct pronunciation. It also showed that most flight announcers approximate the English phonemes with what is obtainable in their mother tongue while some others exhibited cases of dialectically influenced personal speech handicap.

Keywords - Flight announcers, intelligibility, linguistic variation, pronunciation pattern.

INTRODUCTION

All over the world, it is evidently clear that travellers miss their flights for various reasons (Aliyu, 2017). A study conducted by Kabbee (2014) gives six possible reasons why travellers miss their flights. This includes traffic delays (which accounts for the highest percentage), oversleeping, disorganisation, forgetfulness, approaching the wrong terminal and presentation of expired passports. In addition, Tucker (2016) says that other reasons might be tight connections between flights, timing or a lengthy security check. This seems to be contextual since the reasons are a little different in Nigeria as travellers commonly miss their flights because of lateness, inability to fully process flight announcements (Abati, 2017) and presidential movement (Daily Trust, 2015). Out of the three reasons given above, the most disheartening stems from that of flight announcements.

Flight announcers are regarded as being the median in the communication chain in any airport. This is because they provide relevant information pertaining to flights – either arrivals or departure – and by extension, travellers' welfare. Although Nigeria is English as a Second Language (ESL) speaking country, it is expected that flight announcers would exhibit an excellent command of English pronunciation, in order to facilitate effective communication. This seems to not be the case in Nigerian airports as there are several complaints and tales of woe concerning flight announcements (Kperogi, 2016a, 2016b; Abati, 2017). These include travellers' missing their flights while comfortably seated in the waiting lounge and/or boarding the wrong flight seemingly owned by the same carrier. Kperogi (2016b) describes the announcers as speaking through their noses, calling their speech *inaudible babbles* since Westerners and Nigerians alike cannot make sense out of what they are saying.

Howbeit, the vision of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN, 2016), is '*to be amongst the best airport groups in the world.'* To do this effectively, travellers' all round satisfaction which includes what they hear, infrastructural development and personnel management must be looked into and given proper attention. However, this is not the practice in a country like ours which is driven by the economy. Research shows that much attention is rather given to economic returns instead of the welfare of the passengers from whom this income is actually generated. Thus, recent researches in the aviation sector have been to determine the level of financial contribution the industry has made to the Nigerian economy (Anfofum, Zakaree & Iluno, 2015; Aun, 2013; Mobolaji Ikeogu, Omatshola &Ukpere, 2014). Others have examined the operators, operations as well as the infrastructural development of the airport (Mobolaji & Ukpere, 2011; Olukayode, Adebambo & Adewale, 2016; Omisore, Eri & Ojonemi, 2014; Wanke, Barros & Nwaogbo, 2016). Only very few researches have been centered on the passengers' welfare (Ademoh & Anosike, 2015) but still had nothing to do with language, as used in the Nigerian airport community. In another vein, studies on language in the aviation sector has been carried out and symposiums have been held outside the country but these were all based on examining English language as a Language for Specialist Purposes (LSP) without taking into cognizance the general English spoken in the airport, let alone the one used in flight announcements (Ahmad & Rogers, 2007; Alderson, 2009; Orel, 2007). This study therefore aims to fill that gap in knowledge. Interestingly, language use can extend from the phonological, pragmatic, stylistic or the semantic. For the purpose of this study, focus shall be on the phonological components of the language of flight announcers.

The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2016) holds that the Nigerian aviation industry attracted about 15.2million passengers in 2016; with the most travellers passing through the Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos to different parts of the country and the world. Having three terminals – an International, local and a privately owned one – the MMA is clearly Nigeria's largest and best airport as it serves as a take off point for over 22 foreign

carriers; transporting both persons and goods. Thus, the airport serves as a reflection of what happens in other airports in Nigeria.

Thus, the objective of this study is to investigate the pronunciation patterns in the language of flight announcers - working at the Murtala Muhammed Airport at the segmental level - bearing in mind specific linguistic and sociolinguistic variables. An attempt will also be made to identify recurrent phonological patterns and highlight specific phonological problems (if any) in the announcers' general use of language.

This study will serve as an evaluation of flight announcers' linguistic competence for the Federal Government of Nigeria and FAAN as employers of labour. Linguists will also find the study relevant as it will expose the language spoken by flight announcers as members of a speech community. Finally, the study will contribute to existing literature in aviation, language and communication.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study adopts Labov's (1966[21]) theory of Linguistic Variation also known as the Labovian paradigm. The theory claims that, language varies systematically between individuals, and across different socio-geographical distribution, with respect to the social characteristics such as family background, ethnicity, age, gender etc., of the speakers (Gordon, 2014[22]; Bayley, 2013[23]; Jalali, 2013[24]). Labov argues that differences in pronunciation is not an anomaly but is rather necessary for a language to function well in a speech community. Thus he introduced the concept of *linguistic variables* (Labov, 1963[25]) which dominated most of his work. The introduction of linguistic variables has made the study of variation become systematic. Cedergren (Cited in Tagliamonte, 2006[26]) asserts that theoretically, the use of linguistic variables has also permitted the use of different types of statistical methods in the study of language variation. In his study Labov, took into account the way speakers use language in everyday situation. Thus, he advocated empirical and quantitative methods for studying these variations, especially in naturally produced speech. Milroy and Gordon (2003[27]) also identified two methods Labov applies in examining linguistic variation. The first one, they claimed is by examining linguistic forms (i.e. variables) and their distribution; while the other method is by examining speakers of languages and their behaviour with respect to different situations. This study adopted the latter by examining the linguistic variables and their distribution in the language of flight announcers. Wardhaugh (2013[28]) describes Labov's study in New York City as the yardstick for linguistic variation studies.

In this study, the flight announcers' language will be investigated using three linguistic variables – the schwa /ə/ and the voiceless and voiced dental fricatives /Ɵ/ and /ð/. The three sounds were selected since they are very common and always occur in most words that form flight announcements. The Schwa /ə/ is a mid-central vowel and sounds like 'uh'.

According to Okrent (2014[29]), it appears commonly in English language and can represent all the vowels (A, E, I, O, U) of the alphabet including 'Y' for example amazing – əmazing; tenacious – tənacious; replicate – repləcate; percolate – percəlate; supply – səpply; syringe – səringe. However, the schwa does not represent only a single letter, e.g. sister (sistə). It also has the tendency to delete a syllable. This happens when the schwa is following a syllable that bears the main stress in the word. This is called schwa syncope (or schwa deletion) as in chocolate – choc-late. Schwa addition also takes place when there are difficult consonant clusters to pronounce as in athlete – athəlete. In Nigerian English, the schwa has four variants as identified by Josiah and Essien (2012[30]). The variants are /a/, /ə/, /e/ and /ɔ/. On the other hand, the dental fricatives /Θ/ and /ð/ are two very common sounds in English language that have a common representative letter of the alphabet 'th' when occurring in words. /Θ/ is a voiceless sound found in words like '*thing*', while /ð/ is voiced and is found in words like '*the*'. According to Josiah and Babatunde (2011[31]), /Θ/ has two variants /t/ and /s/ besides /Θ/; while /ð/ has the variants /d/ and /z/ besides itself.

METHODOLOGY

Data for this study was collected at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos, through the use of a questionnaire and a reading list. The questionnaire was used to collect personal information from the respondents. The reading list on the other hand comprised of 40 items – 30 words, 4 phrases and 6 sentences – made up of familiar words used in flight announcements and containing the linguistic variables to be tested. These were administered to 10 flight announcers (labeled A1-A10), who work at the airport and were selected using purposive sampling technique; based on their availability, readiness and willingness. The output of the reading test was subjected to phonetic transcription immediately thereafter using a native speaker's output as a guide. The researcher carefully noted the distribution of the linguistic variables as it appears in words, sentences or phrases in the Received Pronunciation (RP) model and compared it with the frequency with which it was correctly pronounced correctly. To ascertain each announcer's total performance, a mean score of the three reading tests was drawn.

DATA ANALYSIS, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Demographics of Respondents

Respondents are from five major geo-linguistic zones of Nigeria, aged between 20 and 50years, having at least a first degree. TABLE 1 shows a summary of the demographics of the selected flight announcers. Some had undergone some form of in-service trainings on the job, while two claimed not to. Three out of the sample claimed to have travelled to at least English as a Native Speaker (ENS) country at one time or another for varied reasons.

Table 1: Summary of respondents' demographics

	Age (yrs)	**Ethnic group**	**Educational qualification**	**Experience (on the job)**	**No of Speech training given**	**Level of exposure with *NS**
*A1	20 -30	Igbo	M.A. English	1 - 5yrs	None	None
A2	31- 50	Esan	B.A. English	6 - 10yrs	3 – 4 times	None
A3	31-50	Igbo	B.Sc. Business Admin.	6 – 10yrs	5 or more	3 – 6yrs (schooling)
A4	31 -50	Yoruba	M.Sc. Political Science	6 – 10yrs	3 – 4	1 – 3yrs (leisure)
A5	20 -30	Gbagyi	B.Sc. Business Admin.	1 – 5yrs	1 – 2	None
A6	31–50	Ogoni	B.A. Linguistics	6 – 10yrs	5 or more	None
A7	20 -30	Urhobo	B.A. Sociology	1 – 5yrs	1 – 2	0 – 1yr (leisure)
A8	20–30	Yoruba	B.Sc. HIR (In view)	1 – 5yrs	3 – 4	None
A9	20 -30	Igala	B.Sc. Public Admin.	1 – 5yrs	1 – 2	None
A10	20- 30	Yoruba	B.Sc. Mass Comm.	0 – 1yr	None	None

***NS – N**ative **S**peaker
*__A__ – __A__nnouncer

Representation of linguistic variables under study

TABLE 2 shows the frequency of occurrence in the distribution of the linguistic variables /ə/, /ð/ and /Θ/ embedded in each word, phrase and sentence in the reading list after phonetic transcription. The word list is made up of 30 orthographic words.

Table 2: Frequency of occurrence of linguistic variables in the reading list

	No. of /ə/	**No. of /ð/**	**No. of /Θ/**	Total
Words	31	8	9	48
Phrases	12	2	5	19
Sentences	57	17	9	83
TOTAL	**100**	**27**	**23**	**150**

After transcription was carried out, the researcher discovered that there were a total of 150 linguistic variables under study. 31 represented the mid central vowel /ə/; while the voiced and voiceless dental fricatives /ð/ and /Θ/ had 8 and 9 representations respectively - accounting for a total of 48 representations in the word list. The reading test comprised of only four (4) phrases in the list labeled PL 1 - 4. After the phrase list was transcribed, the researcher identified 12 /ə/ sounds, 2 /ð/ and 5 /Θ/ sounds in the four phrases given. This

gives a total of 19 linguistic variables embedded in the phrase list. Six sentences were also administered. They were labeled SL 1 – SL6. In each of the sentences, the three linguistic variables were represented except in SL1 where /Θ/ was not found in any of the words when transcribed. In SL1, there were 5 /ə/ and 1/ð/ sound, making a total of 6 sounds. In SL 2, we noticed that there are 13 schwa, 5 voiced dental fricative and 1 voiceless dental fricative; which all added up to 19 linguistic variables represented in that sentence. SL 3 had a total of 16 linguistic variables - 11 belonging to the mid central vowel; 2 being voiced dental fricative and 3 belonging to the voiceless dental fricative. In SL 4, it is observed that there are 7 /ə/, 2 /ð/ and 2 /Θ/ sounds represented. SL5 has the largest number of the occurrence of the mid central vowel – 14 in all; it also has 4 dental fricatives (voiced) but only one (1) dental fricative (voiceless). The total representation of linguistic variables for SL6 is 12 - /ə/ is 7, /ð/ is 3 and /Θ/ is 2. On the whole, there are 57 schwa sounds, 17 voiced dental fricatives and 9 voiceless dental fricatives in the six sentences under study.

Respondents' performance in the reading test

In TABLE 3, 4 and 5, the percentage performance of the respondents' pronunciation in the Wordlist, Phrase list and Sentence list is displayed and a mean score for each respondent is drawn. These mean are brought together in TABLE 6 where another mean is taken to represent the total performance score of each respondent.

Table 3: Individual performance in the Word List

Respondent	***/ə/***	***/Θ/***	***/ð/***	***Total***	***Mean***
A1	12.9	22.2	37.5	72.6	24.2
A2	64.5	33.3	50	147.8	49.3
A3	77.4	77.8	87.5	242.7	80.9
A4	32.3	11.1	0	43.4	14.5
A5	38.7	77.8	62.5	179	59.7
A6	61.3	66.7	50	178	59.3
A7	64.5	77.8	75	217.3	72.4
A8	22.6	22.2	62.5	107.3	35.8
A9	16.1	33.3	25	74.4	24.8
A10	9.7	22.2	0	31.9	10.6

The following was discovered: only two (2) respondents had a good grasp of the right pronunciations of most of the words presented, having a percentage of 80.9% and 72.4% each. Two (2) others have a fairly acceptable knowledge of pronunciations when words are used discretely; having 59.7% and 59.3%. The remaining six (6) respondent's scores showed a poor pronunciation skill since their scores were 49.3%, 35.8%, 24.8%, 24.2%, 14.5%, and 10.6%; which is below average.

Table 4: Individual performance in the Phrase List

	% score in PL1	% score in PL2	% score in PL3	% score in PL4	New % Mean
A1	20	20	0	0	10
A2	40	50	20	25	33.8
A3	100	80	100	100	95
A4	20	20	20	0	15
A5	20	20	40	50	32.5
A6	60	40	80	50	57.5
A7	60	40	80	50	57.5
A8	20	20	40	0	20
A9	20	20	20	0	15
A10	20	20	40	0	20

TABLE 4 shows the mean scores of the pronunciation performance as obtained in all the phrase lists read. A1 had the lowest mean of 10% and was followed closely by A9 with a mean score of 15%. Others who performed below the pass mark includes A8 and A10, both scoring 20% each; A2 scoring 33.8% and A5 scoring 32.5%. A3 showed a good grasp of pronunciation of the words in the phrase list by scoring 95%. Two (2) respondents A6, and A7 showed a fair understanding of the correct pronunciation of the words.

Table 5: Individual performance in the Sentence List

	% score in SL1	% score in SL2	% score in SL3	% score in SL4	% score in SL5	% score in SL6	New % Mean
A1	33.3	5.3	12.5	0	26.3	8.3	14.3
A2	16.7	0	25	0	26.3	8.3	12.7
A3	83.3	36.8	100	100	94.7	83.3	83.1
A4	33.3	0	12.5	0	15.8	8.3	11.7
A5	66.7	26.3	12.5	36.4	21.1	33.3	32.7
A6	33.3	21.1	18.8	18.2	26.3	25	23.8
A7	33.3	26.3	37.5	27.3	31.6	33.3	31.7
A8	16.7	15.8	18.8	9.1	21.1	33.3	19.1
A9	0	5.3	18.8	0	15.8	0	6.65
A10	16.7	0	12.5	18.2	21.1	0	11.4

The result stated in TABLE 5, showing the mean scores of respondents' performance in reading of sentences reflects a very poor command of English pronunciation by the respondents. The scores displayed are as follows: A1 scored 14.3%, A2 scored 12.7%, A3 scored 83.1%, A4 scored 11.7, A5 scored 32.7, A6 scored 23.8, A7 scored 31.7, A8 scored

19.1%, A9 scored 6.65% while A10 scored 11.4%. The highest mean score in the distribution is 83.1% while the lowest mean score is 6.65%.

Table 6: Total performance score for each respondent

	WL %	PL%	SL%	TOTAL	MEAN%
A1	24.2	10	14.3	48.5	16.2
A2	49.3	33.8	12.7	95.8	31.9
A3	80.9	95	83.1	259	86
A4	14.5	15	11.65	41.15	13.7
A5	59.7	32.5	32.7	124.9	41.6
A6	59.3	57.5	23.8	140.6	46.9
A7	72.4	57.5	31.55	161.5	53.8
A8	35.8	20	19.1	74.9	25
A9	24.8	15	6.65	46.5	15.5
A10	10.6	20	11.4	42	14

TABLE 6 shows the total performance score for each respondent. From the result above, it is discovered that if this were to be an interview score for all the respondents for the job of flight announcing, only two (2) respondents would have made the pass mark, scoring 86% and 53.8%. However, while A3 stands a great chance of being employed expressly, A7 would be considered but would need further training on pronunciation. From the distribution of the scores, one wonders how A1, A4, A9 and A10 communicate when announcing, scoring 16.2%, 13.7%, 15.5% and 14% respectively. Others like A2 scoring 31.9%, A5 scoring 41.6%, A6 scoring 46.9% and A8 scoring 25% are no better too. This is further shown in the bar chart, Fig. 1 below.

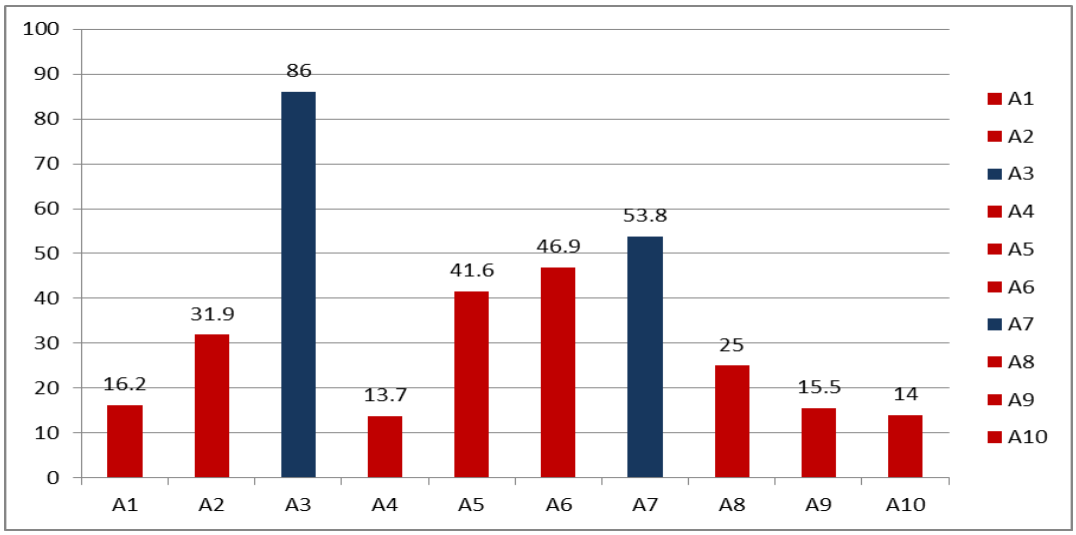

Figure 1: Bar chart showing respondents proficiency in pronunciation.

The bar chart in Figure 1 gives a pictorial view of respondents' proficiency in English pronunciation. Marked in blue, it shows that A3 is the most proficient in speech and is followed closely by A7. Others in red, have a speech proficiency that is below average and thus unacceptable in exclusive jobs like flight announcing.

Correlation of respondents' performance with sociolinguistic variables

TABLE 7 shows the details of respondents' performance in the pronunciation exercise in relation to sociolinguistic variables.

Table 7: Correlation of respondents' performance to sociolinguistic variables

Respon-dents	**Qualification**	**Age (years)**	**Experience (years)**	**Ethnic Origin**	**Exposure (years)**	**Perfor-mance (%)**
A1	M.A. English	20-30	1-5	Igbo	None	16.2
A2	B.A. English	31-50	6-10	Esan	None	31.9
A3	B.Sc. B/Admin.	31-50	6-10	Igbo	3-6	86
A4	M.Sc. Pol. Sc.	31-50	6-10	Yoruba	1-3	13.7
A5	B.Sc. B/Admin	20-30	1-5	Gbagiyi	None	41.6
A6	B.A. Linguistics	31-50	6-10	Ogoni	None	46.9
A7	B.A. Sociology	20-30	1-5	Urhobo	0-1	53.8
A8	B.Sc. HIR	20-30	1-5	Yoruba	None	25
A9	B.Sc. Public Admin	20-30	1-5	Igala	None	15.5
A10	B.Sc. Mass Comm.	20-30	0-1	Yoruba	None	14

It shows that the highest performance (86%) in the test came from a first degree graduate of Business Administration and not a language or communication related discipline. The same is noticeable for the next highest performance with 53.8% who happens to be a Sociologist. Ironically, the second lowest performance is from a graduate of Mass Communication, scoring 14%. Thus, educational qualification and discipline does not seem to count as there are Master's degree holders (even in English language) that performed very poorly; each scoring 16.2% and 13.7% respectively.

As concerns working experience, A3 who did well, has been working as an announcer for between 6 to 10years and so has A2, A4 and A6 – who all performed poorly. The only difference between them and A3 is that, she has schooled in a native speaker country for about 3 to 6years. It may however be a little hasty to draw up conclusions that exposure to native speakers is the cause of A3's superb performance because according to the Table 6, A4 has been travelling abroad for between 1 and 3years (though for leisure) but still performed poorly (scoring 13.7%, which was the lowest). A7 scored the second highest and claims to have travelled out for less than a year (for leisure) and still passed the test (scoring 53.8%).

TABLE 7 also shows that seven (7) out of all the respondents have never had the opportunity to travel to an English as a native language speaking country; not even for leisure, thus bringing the mean to 27.3%. Out of the three who claim to have travelled out, two (2) went for leisure while one (1) spent about 3 to 6years there, schooling. The cumulative mean for those who have been exposed to native speakers is 51.2%.

Respondents from the South-south had a mean score of 44.2%; South-East scored 51.1%; South-west scored 17.6% while North-central and North-west scored 15.5% and 41.6% respectively. Those from South-east has the highest mean but the margin between their score and the next highest mean here, is not too significant because if highest performer's score (which is 86%) is removed from South-east, the mean would be very low. To a large extent, all the respondents - except the one who has been exposed to some native variety- speak a form of Nigerian English and not RP

Phonological Patterns:
It was also observed also that deletion of weak forms was recurrent in the speech of almost all respondents. Words like *is* (/ɪz/), *to* (/tu:/), *the* (/ðɪ:) and *a* (/eɪ/) still retained their strong forms even when found in environments where they should have been changed to weak forms. This agrees with Akinjobi (cited in Oladimeji, 2014: 239[32]) that Educated Nigerians are very weak when it comes to do with central vowel articulation. Some respondents also realized statements and discrete words as indirect questions. Therefore, in areas where the respondents tone was meant to fall, a rise was heard. This indicates doubt and a call for affirmation as to whether what was being pronounced was right or wrong.

Phonological Problems
The realization of the three linguistic variables under study proved that mother tongue interference is and still remains the greatest challenge in the way flight announcers as second language users pronounce most sounds that they find difficult. Therefore approximation of phoneme is noticed in their pronunciation such that they use what is already known, especially phonemes of their mother tongue. Words that had /Θ/ like ***th****ermometer*, *sympa****th****y*, *ba****th****room*, ***Th****ursday*, ***Th****eft*, ***th****ank you and* ***th****irty-****th****ree* were realized, replacing /Θ/ for /t/ in most cases. Affected by the same trend are also words containing the sound /ð/ which was replaced using /d/. The worst hit variable in the exercise was the schwa /ə/. The respondents had more than one variant approximation to replace this sound, depending on the environment in which it is found. Schwa was /a:/ in sympathy; /e/ and /ɪ/ in formalities, /a/ in maintenance, /ɪ/ in personal and /ɒ/ in suspicious.

Deletion and insertion of vowels and consonants was also noticeable as a problem in the study. Syncope occurred when /ə/ was deleted in *personal* (pɒ:snl) and *operational* (/ɒpəraʃnal/, making the words appear as clusters. Apocope occurred when two respondents pronounced *theft* and *discovered* without their final consonant sounds in rapid speech. In the same vein, anaptyxis could be seen in *operational*, as a respondent realized it as /ɒpureitʃnal/,

thereby inserting 'u' where there is none. This simply means that the respondent found the clustering of *'pr'* difficult to realize. Another respondent, inserted consonant /l/ into *further*, pronouncing it as /fɒlda/. The researcher also discovered that /Ɵ/ in *bathroom* was realized as /s/, making it appear as /ba:srɒm/. This case could be seen as a dialectically influenced personal speech handicap. In an isolated case however, a respondent continually pronounced *space* in two out of three places where the word *peace* was used.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, the outcome of the general performance of the respondents who took the test implies that, there is a correlation between an announcer's pronunciation pattern and exposure to native speakers, age and working experience. Thus educational qualification had no effect on pronunciation. Also revealed is the fact that a person's pronunciation can be attributed to variational, mother tongue interference, environmental, as well as physiological conditions. This therefore means that, if the same level of training and exposure to native speakers is being given, there is a tendency that respondents would have performed better. In order words, most flight announcers use a variety of Nigerian English when making announcements. Going by Awonusi's (1987[33]) submission and comparing it to the performances of the announcers, most of the English spoken is basilectal and mesolectal as only one respondent proved to speak an acrolectal version of the language. This is attributed to the fact that the linguistic variables were realized using variants in Nigerian English as harmonized by Josiah and Babatunde (2011[31]). Thus, the variety may appear to be less intelligible to most non-Nigerians; especially those who are only visiting or passing through. However, not only foreigners will be affected but Nigerians too, especially since most of the announcers make use of a non-Nigerian accent, yet apply it to the Nigerian variants of the RP equivalent. It is therefore, not surprising that travellers encounter challenges in understanding what is being announced in the airport most of the time and this trend may continue if not checked.

The researchers thus recommends that the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) – Nigeria is a member country - spreads the tentacles of its decree passed in January 2008, which says that that *"all Air Traffic Controllers and Flight Crew members engaged in or in contact with international flights must be proficient in English Language as a general spoken medium…"*[34]; to include pivotal airport staff such as flight announcers in order to curb sub-standard language use when passing information to travellers in the airport. Government bodies in charge of recruiting and training flight announcers should expose them to the tutelage of native speakers once they are recruited and from time to time, while on the job. Flight announcers themselves should also make a personal effort in improving their pronunciation by listening to recorded voices of first language users or radio broadcasts on BBC, CNN, and Sky News etc.

The analysis of data was basically on the segmentals; it would therefore be recommended that further research be carried out on the suprasegmental aspects of flight announcers' language.

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